

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
TRSE-00 ARA-10 NRC-05 /128 W
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R 051404Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 025

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, PINT, CF, US, RQ, FR, SS
SUBJECT: 5TH REGULAR CONGRESS OF CONGOLESE TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
(CSC)

1. SUMMARY: CONGOLESE TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION HELD
ITS 5TH REGULAR CONGRESS IN BRAZZAVILLE, APRIL 26-30.
END SUMMARY.

2. CSC CONGRESS WAS ITS FIRST SINCE 1973. 35 FOREIGN
DELEGATIONS ATTENDED THIS "CONGRESS OF HOPE," INCLUDING
REPS FROM FRENCH CGT, AND FROM "LABOR UNIONS" OF USSR
AND CUBA. MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN REPS ALSO PARTICIPATED,
AWARE OF WELL-KNOWN AND OFT-ARTICULATED GOCB SUPPORT FOR
F-POLISARIO. HEAD OF ROMANIAN DELEGATION IS TO RETURN
HERE AS ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR; FORMER CONGOLESE AND PAN-
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AFRICAN LABOR UNION LEADER GILBERT PONGAULT LED A
DELEGATION.

3. DURING OPENING ADDRESS APRIL 26, TO MEMBERS OF THE
15 PROFESSIONAL LABOR FEDERATIONS WHICH MAKE UP THE
CONFEDERATION, CSC SECRETARY-GENERAL BOKAMBA-YANGOUMA
DELIVERED 80-PAGE SPEECH OVER A PUNISHING THREE HOURS.

DURING EARLY PART OF HIS SOCIALIST DISTRISES, AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED INSTEAD ON PRESENCE IN FRONT ROW OF PODIUM OF MILITARY COMMITTEE (CMP) MEMBER ANGO, WHO USUALLY IS RELEGATED TO BACK ROW OF PODIUM BUT WHO, IN ABSENCE OF CMP MEMBERS KATALI AND EBAKA, BOTH OUT OF TOWN, WAS GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. SAYING HE WAS SPEAKING FOR CSC'S 100,000 MEMBERS, YANGOUMA EXHORTED CONGOLESE TO WORK. HE BLAMED FRANCE FOR MUCH OF WHAT IS WRONG IN PRESENT-DAY CONGO, AND CHARACTERIZED WESTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIES AS "DETERIORATING." WHILE RELATIVELY MILD ON QUESTIONS OF RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AND NAMIBIA, YANGOUMA ATTACKED ISRAELI "EXPANSIONISM," AND EXTENDED USUAL SUPPORT FOR PLO. SIGNIFICANTLY, NO CRITICISM WAS MADE OF SADAT INITIATIVE. CRITICISM WAS LEVELED AT PINOCHET. THREE ADVERSE REFERENCES WERE MADE CONCERNING UNITED STATES: ALONG WITH "COURAGEOUS WORKERS" OF VENEZUELA, CHILE, AND ELSEWHERE, YANGOUMA CITED WORKERS OF PUERTO RICO AS STRUGGLING TO OBTAIN JUSTICE, AND HE PRAISED THOSE EFFORTS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED US DECISION REGARDING NEUTRON BOMB, CHARACTERIZING WEAPON AS A DAMOCLES SWORD HELD OVER REST OF WORLD. YANGOUMA ALSO ATTACKED US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO.

4. TAKING MICROPHONE THEREAFTER, PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO PRAISED SOVIET LABOR UNIONS (SIC), THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS CONGOLESE ECONOMY. YHOMBY VERY FRANKLY DESCRIBED STATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AS "CATASTROPHIC," AND THE

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CONGOLESE ECONOMY AS IN SHHMBLES. RATHER THAN DRAW THE LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS, HOWEVER, YHOMBY CALLED FOR HARD WORK, LESS CORRUPTION, AND BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE SYSTEM. HE THEN URGED THAT "INTELLECTUALS" SPEND MORE TIME WORKING WITH MANUAL LABORERS, IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER FEEL FOR LATTER'S WORK.

5. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OPENING SESSION, CHARGE EXPRESSED HIS DISSATISFACTION TO PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY, CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL FEVILIYE-MBIMPA, AND YANGOUMA REGARDING REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO. CONGOLESE SAID THAT THEY REGRETTED ITS INCLUSION, AND THAT IT WOULD BE DELETED FROM FINAL RESOLUTIONS.

6. CHARGE ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT CONGOLESE HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD US POSITION CONCERNING NEUTRON BOMB, DESPITE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE QUESTION; INSTEAD, APPARENTLY HAD CHOSEN SIMPLY TO ACCEPT SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON THIS SUBJECT. LATER THAT NIGHT, WE ARE TOLD, PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO PHONED YANGOUMA TO TELL HIM THAT, WHILE CHIDING HIM FOR "GETTING HIS COUNTRIES WRONG--IT WAS FRANCE WHICH WAS PRODUCING THE NEUTRON BOMB, NOT THE US."

7. CHARGE ALSO REMINDED CONGOLESE WHY US HAD WITHDRAWN FROM ILO, REASONS WHICH ARE VERY WELL KNOWN AND OUGHT NOT TO HAVE BEEN DISTORTED.

8. WORKING MEETINGS THEREAFTER WERE DEVOTED TO ELECTION OF 11-MAN PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, AND FEATURED OCCASIONAL VISITS TO CONGRESS BY CONGOLESE VICE-PRESIDENT SASSO-NGUESSO. ONE AMUSING MOMENT CAME DURING CLOSED SESSIONS WHEN CONGRESS WAS READ TELEGRAM FROM ALBANIAN LABOR MOVEMENT, WHICH MESSAGE ATTACKED NOT ONLY US, BUT USSR. A CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL ALSO REPORTEDLY TOOK FLOOR DURING A DRAFTING SESSION TO REMIND CONGOLESE THAT, UPON RENEWING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH U.S., GOCB HAD AGREED
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THAT PUERTO RICO WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR US, NOT TO BE DEBATED BY CONGOLESE.

9. ON APRIL 30, MILITARY COMMITTEE WAS USHERED INTO CONGRESS TO THE TUNE OF "WHEN THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN." AUDIENCE WAS READ RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY CONGRESS, INCLUDING TEXTS ON NEED TO IMPROVE ECONOMY, EXPRESSION OF FIDELITY TO MILITARY COMMITTEE AND ITS PRESIDENT, AND RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. NO MENTION WAS MADE IN RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING PUERTO RICO, MIDDLE EAST, NEUTRON BOMB, OR ILO; DIVERSIFICATION OF CONGOLESE PARTNERS WAS HAILED.

10. LIST OF NEW CSC OFFICIALS, AND TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS BEINGGPOUCHED DEPARTMENT (AF/C-KATES).
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